

To the Energy Technology Committee,

In the late 1970's, my father read about climate change. He felt the problem was clear: if we continued to build an infrastructure based on fossil fuels, his children would live in a world of severe weather events, raging wildfires, rising sea levels, and worse. In his mind, the solution was already clear: switch to an infrastructure of solar energy. He faced a choice. Should he act upon his conscience, resigning his corporate position as an auditor at G. Fox in Hartford to start a solar energy company that would put our family's financial security at risk? Or should he ignore his conscience, do a little bit to solve the problem in his spare time, and leave the future to chance? He resigned his job and started a small solar energy company in an attempt to help shift Connecticut toward a greater reliance on solar energy. He installed solar panels on a lot of houses, but it wasn't lucrative. As his daughter, I had to work a lot of jobs to pay most of my own college expenses, and life was harder for my family in a lot of other ways. But with every passing year I am more proud of my dad's backbone, tenacity, and vision for having listened to his conscience and having fought against climate change while he was alive.

On Thursday, March 3, you have the opportunity to attend a hearing and to support [SB 176](#) An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities (SCEF). I urge you to support the Bill and to increase the SCEF cap to 50 MW of new solar per year, and also to increase the cap on commercial solar from 50 MW to 100 MW of new solar per year.

According to the article "Change Solar Regulations to Achieve Climate Goals" by John Hall in the February 25<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Connecticut Mirror*, "These two caps, together, permit only 78,000 megawatt hours of solar electricity to be added each year. That is less than .2% (two-tenths of one percent) of the electricity generated in Connecticut — hardly a path to decarbonize the grid."

As for the provision in SB176 to allow Eversource to own shared solar facilities, the rules of such a program need to be clarified and set by PURA with stakeholder involvement.

Act boldly! Support the bill and increase the caps. Fifty years from now, people will be proud of the leaders who show backbone, tenacity, and vision against this very real, and very urgent problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Middletown, CT